

### Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method of determining cardiovascular risk in a person ~~not predetermined to be subject to~~ without cardiovascular disease or without a diagnosis thereof, the method comprising the step of:

determining a test MIF concentration in the blood, saliva or urine of the person as a marker of cardiovascular risk for the person, wherein an elevated test MIF concentration compared with a control MIF concentration not associated with cardiovascular risk indicates that the person is subject to elevated cardiovascular risk, and ~~wherein the method further comprises a further step selected from the group consisting of:~~ (a) assigning to the person a cardiovascular risk metric in accordance with the test MIF concentration; (b) prescribing for the person a cardiovascular treatment modality in accordance with the test MIF concentration; and (c) making an additional assessment of cardiovascular risk of the person in accordance with the test MIF concentration, the additional assessment selected from the group consisting of a stress test, a CRP assay and an LDL assay.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising the step of~~ wherein the further step comprises assigning to the person a cardiovascular risk metric in accordance with the test MIF concentration.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising the step of~~ wherein the further step comprises prescribing for the person a cardiovascular treatment modality in accordance with the test MIF concentration.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising the step of~~ wherein the further step comprises making an additional assessment of cardiovascular risk of the person in accordance with the test MIF concentration, the additional assessment selected from the group consisting of a stress test, a CRP assay and an LDL assay.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~detecting~~ determining step is repeated over time intervals to monitor change in cardiovascular risk for the person over time.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~detecting~~ determining step is repeated over treatment to monitor change in cardiovascular risk for the person over treatment.
7. (Previously Amended) A method for characterizing a risk of developing a future cardiovascular disorder in an apparently healthy individual, the method comprising steps:  
obtaining a test MIF level in the blood, saliva or urine of the individual,  
comparing the test MIF level to a predetermined control MIF value, and  
characterizing the individual's risk of developing the future cardiovascular disorder based upon the test MIF level in comparison to the predetermined control MIF value.
8. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the predetermined control MIF value is a plurality of predetermined MIF level ranges and the comparing step comprises determining in which of the predetermined MIF level ranges the individual's test MIF level falls.
9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the individual is apparently healthy but statistically overweight or obese.
10. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the cardiovascular disorder is selected from the group consisting of stroke and myocardial infarction.
11. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the test MIF level is compared to the predetermined control MIF value to establish a first risk value, and the method further comprises the steps of:  
obtaining a test cholesterol level in the individual,  
comparing the test cholesterol level to a predetermined control cholesterol value to establish a second risk value, and  
characterizing the individual's risk of developing the cardiovascular disorder based upon the combination of the first risk value and the second risk value, wherein the combination of the first risk value and second risk value establishes a third risk value different from said first and second risk values.

12. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the predetermined control MIF value is a first plurality of predetermined MIF concentration ranges and the comparing step comprises determining in which of the predetermined MIF concentration ranges the individual's test MIF level falls.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the individual is apparently healthy but statistically overweight or obese.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the cardiovascular disorder is selected from the group consisting of stroke and myocardial infarction.

15. (Previously Amended) A method for evaluating the likelihood that an individual will benefit from treatment with an agent for reducing the risk of a cardiovascular disorder, the method comprising steps:

obtaining a test MIF level in the blood, saliva or urine of the individual, and  
comparing the test MIF level to a predetermined control MIF value,  
wherein the test MIF level in comparison to the predetermined control MIF value is indicative of whether the individual will benefit from treatment with said agent.

16. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the predetermined control MIF value is a plurality of predetermined MIF concentration ranges and the comparing step comprises determining in which of the predetermined MIF concentration ranges the individual's test MIF level falls.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the individual is apparently healthy but statistically overweight or obese.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the cardiovascular disorder is selected from the group consisting of stroke and myocardial infarction.

19. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the agent is aspirin.